

# NEWS BULLETIN

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## **GLOBAL**

**CLIMATE CHANGE** - Some animals and plants may shrink in size because of climate change over the next century, threatening food security and human livelihoods, say scientists. Climate change will lead to higher temperatures and a decrease in rainfall, which, along with the increase in carbon dioxide levels will reduce the growth of a range of crops and protein sources, such as fish, that are crucial for human nutrition, say researchers.

**HEALTH** - The number of polio cases globally has dropped 99% worldwide, with fewer than 1,500 cases last year, putting the world on the cusp of eradicating the disease.

## **AFRICA**

**MALARIA** - The first malaria vaccine could be ready for use by 2015, according to experts reporting encouraging results from a phase III trial, although further data are needed before rollout. The vaccine could help avoid many of the nearly 800,000 malaria-related deaths a year, most of which occur in Sub-Saharan Africa.

**MADAGASCAR** - Tests have confirmed three cases of polio without symptoms among children in Madagascar, raising fears of a broader resurgence after the country's 2009 political crisis disrupted vaccination efforts, UN reports.

**SOMALIA** - Child rights activists have expressed concern over the stagnation of a juvenile justice law in Somalia's self-declared independent Republic of Somaliland, where officials say an average of 200 children are detained every month by police.

## **ASIA**

**CAMBODIA** is experiencing the worst flooding in a decade. The government reports that almost a half a million hectares of rice paddies were destroyed by the floods, which could affect food security in the region.

## **LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN**

**PARAGUAY** - New laws are urgently needed in Paraguay to protect the rights of minorities, in particular women and indigenous people, a top United Nations human rights official has said, calling on the Government to scale up its efforts to stop discrimination and injustice towards these groups.

WFWO's Communications Team